

PATENT

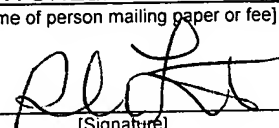
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No.: HOPPE-11

In re Application of:)
THOMAS HOPPE)
Cont. of Int. Appl. No.: PCT/DE02/03782)
Int. Filing Date: October 7, 2002)
For: ELECTRIC LINEAR MOTOR, AND SECONDARY FOR A LINEAR MOTOR)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Express Mail mailing label number: EV 375169706 US
Date of Deposit: April 15, 2004
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450".
ANTONELLA FUSILLO _____ [Name of person mailing paper or fee]
 _____ [Signature]

S I R:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, applicant wishes to call the attention of the Examiner to the following references A) to I) which were cited in the International Search Report issued by the European Patent Office with regard to the corresponding international patent application No. PCT/DE02/03782, references J) to K) which were cited in a German Office Action issued by the German Patent Office with regard to the corresponding German patent application No. 101 51 725.4 and reference L) which is cited in the instant specification. Applicant does not admit that any of the cited documents constitutes prior art against the pending application.

	Country:	Patent or Appl. No:	Patentee or Applicant:	Issue or Filing Date:
A)	Japan	JP 10 032973 A	Amada Co. Ltd.	02-03-1998
B)	USA	US 5 088 593	Lewin	02-18-1992
C)	Japan	JP 01 186103 A	Mitsubishi	07-25-1989
D)	Germany	DE 198 37 212 A	Itec	02-24-2000
E)	USA	US 4 798 985	Chitavat	01-17-1989
F)	USA	US 5 778 758	Barth et al.	07-14-1998
G)	USA	US 5 179 304	Kenjo et al.	01-12-1993
H)	USA	US 6 271 606	Hazelton	08-07-2001
I)	USA	US 3 954 037	Rios	05-04-1976
J)	Germany	DE 197 38 988 A1	Deutsche Star	03-12-1998
K)	Germany	DE 196 05 387 C2	Neff Antriebstech.	08-28-1997
L)	Germany	DE 198 53 250 A	Siemens Linear	05-25-2000

Copies of these references are submitted herewith along with form PTO-1449. The Examiner is requested to initial the attached form PTO-1449 and to return a copy of the initialed document to the undersigned as an indication that the attached references have been considered and made of record.

☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 1.53(d), so that no fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 is due.

☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 1.491 in an international application, so that no fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 is due.

☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, so that no fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 is due.

☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, so

that no fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 is due.

- ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed after the issuance of a first office but before issuance of a final action under §1.113, or a notice of allowance under §1.311.
- ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted after the mailing of a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee.
- ☐ The undersigned submits the following statement requesting consideration of this statement:

The undersigned hereby states:

- ☐ That each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement;
- ☐ That no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.
- ☐ The fee of \$180.00 set forth in 1.17(p).
- ☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee as set forth in 1.17(p), and any additional fees which may be required, or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-0502.

[X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-0502.

In order to satisfy the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3) for a concise explanation of the relevance of each item of information, applicant herewith submits a copy of the International Search Report together with a translation of the relevant pages thereof. In addition, applicant notes with respect to any information that is not in English language as follows:

Reference J) describes an oblong housing (10) having walls (12,14,16) enclosing a guide chamber (74) and forming a lengthwise opening (70). A truck (62) traveling in the chamber has a connecting component (64) passing through the opening for engagement with an item guided in the lengthwise direction (A). A flexible rope (76) or similar item drives the truck along its track and passes round guides (94) at the housing ends, where they are enclosed by caps (110). One guide is separate from its cap, allowing installation without the latter in the housing end, after which the rope is passed round it and the cap mounted on it. The guide can have a bracket, with fixing devices to the housing and/or a guide rail inside the latter. Guide faces can also be provided on the bracket, working against the housing and/or the rail end, and allowing movement in the axial direction. The cap can fit onto the end of the rail or housing.

Reference K) describes a cover tape (14) which is placed over an elongated slit, but removable therefrom so as to reliably seal the elongated slit (8),

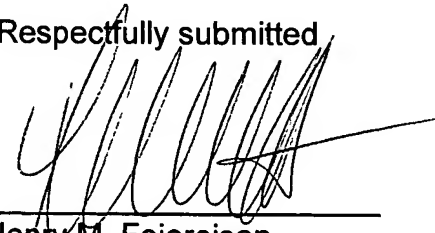
which passes through an essentially tubular guide body (6), against contamination by dirt, machine cutting chips and the like, while permitting passage of a movable projecting element through the slit. The cover tape (14) is locked to the guide body (6) by a releasable locking arrangement which includes interengaging, interlocking projection (26) and recess (35) means, located at the sides of the tape (14) on the guide body (6), respectively. The projection means is formed by a headed elongated rib (27), located on the guide body, and the recess means (35) are formed by a groove between a pair of laterally deflectable lips (36, 37), which can snap over the head portion (28) of the rib for positive engagement, while requiring only little force to lift them off the head portion. The locking arrangement for the tape (14) is located on both sides of the tape, so that the region of the slit itself is free from forces arising in locking and unlocking of the tape.

The above-identified application discloses and claims an invention patentable over this prior art.

Entry of the references above set forth into the file of the above application is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted

By:


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Form PTO-1449U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION**

Attorney's Docket No. HOPPE-11	Applicant THOMAS HOPPE	Cont. of Int. Appl. No. PCT/DE02/03782
Int. Filing Date October 7, 2002	Group	Examiner

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date, if appropriate
	5,088,593	02-18-1992	Lewin			
	4,798,985	01-17-1989	Chitavat			
	5,778,758	07-14-1998	Barth et al.			
	5,179,304	01-12-1993	Kenjo et al.			
	6,271,606	08-07-2001	Hazelton			
	3,954,037	05-04-1976	Rios			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation
	JP 10 032973 A	02-03-1998	Japan			abstract
	JP 01 186103 A	07-25-1989	Japan			abstract
	DE 198 37 212 A	02-24-2000	Germany			no
	DE 197 38 988 A1	03-12-1998	Germany			no
	DE 196 05 387 C2	08-28-1997	Germany			no
	DE 198 53 250 A	05-25-2000	Germany			no

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner:**Date considered:**

*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.